

IN THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-28, all of the claims in the subject U.S. patent application, as filed, as constituted by the verified translation of PCT/EP2004/052525, have been cancelled.

Claims 1-20 as filed by KBA on February 24, 2005, under Article 34, have also been cancelled. New claims 29-46 are presented as follows.

Claims 1-28 (Cancelled)

29. (New) A device for conveying a flow of flat object comprising:

a conveying track having a plurality of spaced conveyor belts and adapted to receive a flow of flat objects to be conveyed in a conveying direction by said conveying belt;

a plurality of rotatable paddle wheels spaced sequentially along said conveying track in said conveying direction, each of said paddle wheels being adjacent said spaced conveyor belts;

means supporting each of said plurality of paddle wheels for rotation about an axis of rotation;

at least one paddle on each said paddle wheel and defining an object receiving compartment, a maximum number of paddles on each said paddle wheel being four;

a tip on each said paddle of each said paddle wheel, said tip being positioned to cross said conveying track while said compartment associated with said tip adjoins said conveying track and wherein said paddle wheels are rotated with

respect to each other having a phase shift of said at least one compartment of each said paddle whereby a number of objects are received in respective ones of said compartments of said number of said sequentially arranged paddle wheels, said number of objects and paddle wheels being a whole number of at least three; and a deposit location adapted to receive said flat objects from said paddle wheels.

30. (New) The device of claim 28 wherein said paddle wheels are located below said conveying track.

31. (New) The device of claim 29 wherein said conveying belt has a conveying speed and said paddle wheels have a circumferential speed which is less than said conveying speed.

32. (New) The device of claim 29 wherein each of said paddle wheels has less than three paddles.

33. (New) The device of claim 29 wherein adjacent ones of said sequentially spaced paddle wheels have said phase shift with respect to each other defined by

$$2 \pi (d/vT \pm 1/mN)$$
 wherein:

d is a spacing distance between said paddle wheels; m is said number of paddles, N is said number of paddle wheels; v is a conveying speed of said conveying belt; and T is a time interval between successive ones of said objects on said conveying belt.

34. (New) The device of claim 29 wherein said number of paddles is four.

35. (New) The device of claim 29 further including a transverse cutting device located before, in a direction of travel of said objects, said conveying belt.

36. (New) The device of claim 29 wherein said conveying track has a horizontal section, said plurality of paddle wheels being spaced along said horizontal section of said conveying track.

37. (New) The device of claim 35 wherein said conveying track includes a vertical section, after, in said direction of travel of said objects, said transverse cutting device.

38. (New) The device of claim 29 wherein a section of said conveying track is arranged between each two of said plurality of sequentially spaced paddle wheels.

39. (New) The device of claim 29 wherein said plurality of paddle wheels are arranged on one side of said conveying track.

40. (New) The device of claim 29 wherein first identical ones of said objects are secured in a first one of said paddle wheels, and second identical ones of said objects, different from said first objects, are secured in a second one of said paddle wheels.

41. (New) The device of claim 40 further wherein third identical objects, different

from said first and second objects, are received in a third one of said paddle wheels.

42. (New) The device of claim 41 further wherein fourth identical objects, different from said first, second and third objects, are received in a fourth one of said paddle wheels.

43. (New) The device of claim 29 wherein said axes of rotation of said plurality of paddle wheels are arranged on one level.

44. (New) The device of claim 29 wherein said objects are printed products.

45. (New) The device of claim 29 further including a folding blade cylinder adapted to transversely fold said flat objects.

46. (New) The device of claim 29 further including a collecting cylinder for said flat objects.